

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

- 1 1. A method for distributing a content object over a broadband
2 connection to an end-user location, the method comprising step of:
3 determining an amount of bandwidth for adequate quality of service
4 (QOS) to transport the content object;
5 determining a period for transporting the content object;
6 checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user
7 location over the period;
8 reserving the bandwidth if available; and
9 streaming the content object to the end-user location.
- 1 2. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
3 beginning to buffer the content object before the streaming step.
- 1 3. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
3 beginning to cache the content before the streaming step.
- 1 4. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
3 converting the content object to a lower bitrate if the check for availability is
4 unsuccessful.
- 1 5. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
3 determining if a lower QOS is acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is
4 unsuccessful.
- 1 6. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising steps of:
3 determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the
4 amount of bandwidth is less than that required for adequate QOS;
5 determining a buffer amount to provide adequate QOS; and
6 storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object
7 proximate to the end user location.

1 7. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 1, further comprising a step of
3 determining usage by the end-user location based upon at least one of a number of
4 reservations made, an amount of bandwidth reserved, a length of a reservation, and a
5 portion of bandwidth used for the amount of bandwidth reserved.

1 8. A method for distributing a content object over a broadband
2 connection to an end-user location, the method comprising step of:
3 determining an amount of bandwidth for adequate quality of service
4 (QOS) to transport the content object;
5 determining a period for transporting the content object;
6 checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user
7 location over the period;
8 reserving the bandwidth if available;
9 choosing a lower bitrate version of the content object if the check for
10 availability is unsuccessful; and
11 streaming the content object to the end-user location.

1 9. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 beginning to buffer the content object before the streaming step.

1 10. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 beginning to cache the content before the streaming step.

1 11. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 determining if a lower QOS is acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is
4 unsuccessful.

1 12. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising steps of:
3 determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the
4 amount of bandwidth is less than that required for adequate QOS;

5 determining a buffer amount to provide adequate QOS; and
6 storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object
7 proximate to the end user location.

1 13. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 reserving the bandwidth at a future time.

1 14. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 checking the service plan associated with the end-user location before allowing the
4 reserving of bandwidth.

1 15. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 checking the service tier associated with the end-user location before allowing the
4 reserving of bandwidth.

1 16. The method for distributing the content object over the broadband
2 connection to the end-user location as recited in claim 8, further comprising a step of
3 converting the content object into versions that have different bit rates.

1 17. A software product embodied on a computer-readable medium for
2 distributing a content object over a broadband connection to an end-user location, the
3 software product comprising code for:

4 determining an amount of bandwidth for adequate quality of service
5 (QOS) to transport the content object;

6 determining a period for transporting the content object;

7 checking for availability of the amount of bandwidth to the end-user
8 location over the period;

9 reserving the bandwidth if available;

10 converting the content object to a lower bitrate if the check for availability
11 is unsuccessful; and

12 streaming the content object to the end-user location.

1 18. The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium
2 for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location
3 as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for beginning to buffer the content object
4 before the streaming step.

1 19. The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium
2 for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location
3 as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for beginning to cache the content before
4 the streaming step.

1 20. The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium
2 for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location
3 as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for determining if a lower QOS is
4 acceptable to an end-user if the check for availability is unsuccessful.

1 21. The software product embodied on a computer-readable medium
2 for distributing the content object over the broadband connection to the end-user location
3 as recited in claim 17, further comprising code for:
4 determining the amount of bandwidth available over the period, where the
5 amount of bandwidth is less than that required for adequate QOS;
6 determining a buffer amount to provide adequate QOS; and
7 storing the buffer amount corresponding to a portion of the content object
8 proximate to the end user location.